

**FOREST CITY BOROUGH  
MINUTES  
MONDAY FEBRUARY 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025**

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**CALL TO ORDER:** (President DeGonzague, presiding).

President DeGonzague called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. He welcomed everyone. He then asked everyone to join in the “Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL:**

Present: President DeGonzague, V.P. Bernie Scalzo, Michael Norella, Jason Obelenus Eileen Lynch, Amy Bean, Sarah Woody, Secretary/Treasurer Dennise Yankauskas, Sewer Secretary Cindy Stone, Solicitor Marissa McAndrew. Absent was Mayor Glinton.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** (President DeGonzague)

President DeGonzague announced an executive session on January 17<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> regarding personal issues and delinquent sewer accounts. Also, there was an executive session before tonight’s meeting.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Nick Cost commented on the discontinuing of snow removal on Main Street. He can’t comprehend why you would stop paying for snow removal, who brought that up, was it you Eileen Lynch, she commented she was one of them. Nick replied the you were the only one that brought it up but I will check on the minutes. Nick also said you hurting the business, town will be a mess. Councilwoman Lynch replied there are 13 business that are already subcontracted out for their removal, and we are paying \$7000 to clean the street, PennDot owns the street she said President DeGonzague was having DPW clean the street the day after the mayor called the emergency, Wally and Kyle were going to clean the street. She also stated Penn Dot can’t plow the street correctly because the signs that say the hours of no parking, there are cars parked along the streets. Tracey Lazier called “Bullshit”. Nick suggest to table it and see what deals you can get for next year. Councilwoman Lynch said we are not stopping it now; this is for next year. Councilwoman Lynch she talks to Stephen as did Sarah after the first bid, Stephen said he would come down on the first bid, Stephen waited until that Friday to hand in his bid, he called and was told there were no bids, so he bid the same amount because he knew he was the only one that bid, she said Stephen said he would do inches, I would do a foot, 15 inches, two feet we will do all different prices. Nick said when you are on Council, you can’t let your feeling, if you like or don’t like someone, Lynch said she wasn’t letting her feeling do anything. She stated the last year we paid \$17,000 and if we have to pay that this year so that is 50 percent higher and we both spoke to Stephen and we were told we can’t negotiate correct Marissa; we can’t have negated a bid. Councilwoman Lynch said Stephen would bring it down to \$6000 and he didn’t, we approved it for this year. Councilwoman Woody stated it is not a final answer, this is conversation. Councilman Obelenus said if for the 2025-2026 season does not come down we will not pay for it. Nick said you didn’t state that, and it needs to be stated. It then was brought up that it is under continued business and it is just a discussion.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**ADMINISTRATION:** (Jason Obelenus)

Councilman Obelenus made a motion to accept the Minutes from January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025 seconded by Councilman Norella, all responded “Aye”, none opposed.

Councilman Obelenus made a motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report for January 2025, seconded by V.P. Scalzo. The roll call vote was all in favor, none opposed.

Councilwoman Woody made a motion to add Councilman Obelenus for resolution #5-2025 as a bank signature to The Honesdale National Bank on all accounts, seconded by Councilwoman Lynch, roll call vote was all in favor.

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Councilman Norella made a motion to add Councilman Obelenus for resolution #6-2025 as a bank signature to The First National Bank, seconded by V.P. Scalzo, roll call vote was all in favor.

Councilwoman Woody made a motion on resolution #7-2025 the removal of Robert Lesjack on The First National Bank sewer debit/credit account, seconded by President DeGonzague, roll call vote was all in favor.

President DeGonzague made a motion on resolution #8-2025 the removal of Robert Lesjack on all accounts held at The Honesdale National Bank, seconded by Councilwoman Lynch, roll call vote was all in favor.

Councilman Obelenus made a motion on resolution #9-2025 to recognize the month of April 2025 as Pennsylvania 811 National Safe Dig Month, seconded by V.P. Scalzo, roll call vote was all in favor.

Councilman Obelenus made a motion on resolution #10-2025 to add Councilwoman Lynch as a bank signature to The Honesdale National Bank on all accounts, seconded by V.P. Scalzo, roll call was all in favor.

Councilwoman Woody made a motion on the request for the Susquehanna County Historical Society & Free Library Association to use the third floor on April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025 for a hunter safety course, seconded by Councilwoman Lynch, roll call vote was all in favor.

Councilman Obelenus made a motion for the request from Charles and Martin Skubic American Legion Post 524 road closure on May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025 for The Memorial Day Program, seconded by President DeGonzague, roll call vote was all in favor.

Councilman Obelebus made a motion to stipend in an employee's weekly paycheck in the amount of \$250 to cover insurance cost on the first pay check in March 2025, seconded by President DeGonzague, roll call vote was all in favor. This will not be offered in the future to borough employees.

Resolution #11-2025 assigning signatures needed on an Emergency Proclamation was tabled to the March monthly meeting.

President DeGonzague appointed Council members Obelenus and Norella to research a payroll service and report back to council.

Councilman Obelenus made a motion on resolution #12-2025 to add Councilwoman Lynch as a bank signature to The First National Bank sewer debit/credit account, seconded by V.P. Scalzo, roll call vote was all in favor.

**PUBLIC WORKS:** (Bernard Scalzo)

The Public Works report for January 2025 was offered. V.P. Scalzo read the following into record: filled pot holes on Welch, Fell & Upper North Main Streets, checked the main sewer on the 300 block of Susquehanna Street, put the D&H sign back-up on Zazzera's market, removed a tree on Hudson Street by school, removed branches at Kennedy Park, took Christmas lights down at the gazebo and Main Street Christmas trees, yearly fire extinguisher checks, took down Main Street Christmas decoration, received 22 ton of salt. Sold 6 bucket loads to Vandling for \$600. Recycling donations for January \$334.

**BUILDINGS & GROUNDS:** (Sarah Woody)

Councilwoman Woody stated that are looking for someone to clean quarterly at the borough building and that she has someone interested in it. In the end it was tabled.

**COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:** (Amy Bean)

No updates

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## **PARKS & RECREATION:** (Michael Norella)

Councilwoman Lynch read the information about the up coming soup off that will be held on February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2025. Councilman Norella spoke about the Dessin Shelter donations and also looking for donations for Easter egg hunt in April. Looking for plastic eggs and candy.

## **COMMUNITY SAFETY & HEALTH:** (President DeGonzague)

President DeGonzague announced a cyber-security issues webinar on February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025 for Council member. President DeGonzague also announced Emergency Management official in February 13<sup>th</sup>, one in the morning and evening in New Milford. President DeGonzague would register everyone attending.

## **CODE ENFORCEMENT** (Eileen Lynch)

Councilwoman Lynch read the code enforcement report for January 2025. Councilwoman Lynch stated that the code enforcement officer suggested a work session for the Quality of Life Ordinance so everyone can attend. V.P. Scalzo stated we should look at it to see what we want to change or add instead of adopting a whole new set of rules. A work session is scheduled for February 24<sup>th</sup> at 5:15 p.m. President DeGonzague asked John Kameen to advertise the session.

## **MAYOR'S REPORT:** (Mayor Christopher Ginton)

Police Chief Foley asked if any questions on the January Police Report, no questions. The Police 2026-2030 (5) year contract for Chief Foley and Assistant Chief Dzanis was out. Councilman Norella made a motion for the 2026-2030 (5) year contract, seconded by Councilwoman Lynch, roll call was all in favor.

## **SOLICITOR'S REPORT:** (Solicitor McAndrew)

Solicitor McAndrew spoke about lien letters ready to send out, around 60 letters, she realized when she did them that the amount she asking pay is lower than what G.H. Harris is asking for. Our numbers don't have the G.H. Harris numbers in them, and she doesn't like the discrepancy because it looks like something is going on. She wrote to Paul from G.H. Harris and told him we are not agreeing to collect the G.H. Harris fees but asked him to send the fees and put them in the letter and if people call to negate then we can decide whether or not we are going to collect those fees. Everything is ready and as soon as Paul sends the numbers I will add them in and mail the letters. Councilman Norella asked if this is the first step, she replied yes, and he also asked how long we have to wait to put a lien on the property. Solicitor McAndrew said we can put a lien on it today, but if you send a certified letter in advanced for 30 days, you have the right to add all the fees on to the lien total. She said she thinks it is worth the wait because we waited this long and she will put a timer on the letter from the day they are mailed, and will file the lien 30 days later. She explained what the letter will say.

Solicitor McAndrew also said she had a resident stop in from Railroad Street, and they own a property at 617 Railroad Street and also 613. She said there is a paper road in between them and would like to combine them and the county said he couldn't do that because it is a paper road. They would like to know if the borough makes no grantee that the borough owns or right to it and asked for a quick claim deed, which means that the borough has no right to it, and offered \$1,000 for it to the borough. V.P. Scalzo made a motion to sell it, seconded by Councilwoman Lynch, roll call vote all in favor. Solicitor McAndrew will send a letter we are willing if they pay all the fees and make it very clear it a quick claim deed and make no grantees.

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**CONTINUED BUSINESS:** (President DeGonzague)

Councilwoman Lynch stated a resident wants a seconded storm drain on Hudson Street, so we need to put on the agenda and work on it, she talked to Penn Dot and said it will not take care of the problem because there is a natural spring on the property. There was discussion amongst the council to where it and maybe our Public Works guys can do it. Penn Dot will give us the permits; this will be looked in to more.

V.P. Scalzo spoke about the other water problems that are going on, and look at some smaller contractor to look at them. It will be discussing at a public meeting in the future.

Councilwoman Lynch spoke about the Main Street problem with the trucks, she spoke with 50 residents and LTAP, the issue is the business has been operating for years without any problems, Penn Dot will gladly do a study by they don't see an issue. She said she needs to email Robbie the track of engineer to move forward, we can limit the time on the delivery, and that there is nothing we can do it. Just have to limit the time delivery to the business. Council will come up with the time of deliveries.

**NEW BUSINESS:** (President DeGonzague)

President DeGonzague stated the GFCBA is requesting the third floor in April for a bingo fund raiser. Councilwoman made the motion, seconded Councilman Obelenus, roll call vote all in favor. President DeGonzague discussed road repairs bids for Upper Main, Fell, Call, and North Street. The total for all street \$27,107 to come out of liquid fuels. Penn Dot will advertise the bids.

**CLOSING PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Carrie Kelleher stated she would like to address something that was charged to the borough for a phone conference that was between "Supervisor Bean" regarding removal from council over her legal issues and wanted to know where it was paid from. Solicitor McAndrew stated she didn't charge that; it was said it was from Donald Karpowich. Carrie wanted to know if the borough paid for this. Councilwoman Bean stated she didn't do this, Carrie said someone did regards to you. Carrie Kelleher requested to see a receipt, Secretary Stone said with have a copy of the check. V.P. Scalzo said he was one of the signers and he just looked at it and everything matched up as far as the invoice and check amount. V.P. Scalzo said he didn't look at it in detail. Carrie wanted to know if the borough will get this back. Councilwoman Lynch asked Solicitor McAndrew how could this have been something that borough had a legal conversation. Solicitor McAndrew stated she thinks it is a loaded question, the way that it is written, so no. If someone called and asked Attorney Karpovich the consequences of Councilwoman Bean being on council, she could understand that, but not the way it is written, maybe it's written wrong. President DeGonzague asked Marissa to look into it and report back to council next meeting.

Nick Cost asked Solicitor McAndrew if she was going to look into it, she stated yes. Nick Cost would also like to see the cancelled check for the reimbursement or receipt. Councilman Obelenus said they would figure it out. Councilwoman Bean stated she has for own attorneys, and this is the only bill over the last two or three years that this happened. There was some agreeing back and forth amongst residents and council. Solicitor McAndrew once again stated she will look into it.

Tracey Lazier had a question on the trucks, if council can ask the trucks to unload on Main Street. Councilwoman Lynch stated they did, Ms. Lazier then said they are blocking the road, and Fred Cicilioni has numerous trucks and they were going to use the dock in the back. Tracey Lazier said to use Center Street and fork lift for the delivery to the company. Ms. Lazier asked Councilwoman Lynch if she was in charge of Code Enforcement, she said she was in

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charge of reading his report. Ms. Lazier wanted to know why he is going around saying he will not send citation to anybody, and he is also saying that it was Stephen Mikloiche job remove the snow. Councilwoman Lynch said that Joe Unis just had the ordinance. Solicitor McAndrew said she was understanding that Joe was sending citations and she must have misunderstood. There was commotion amongst residents and council again, amongst all the chatter not a word could be understood. Solicitor McAndrew has been working with Joe Unis Jr. on the Quality of Life Ordinance. Tracey Lazier also wanted to know what will happen when someone falls if you do away with the snow removal. Councilman Obelenus stated it was the businesses responsibility if that should occur; if there was a law suit, you guys (referring to council) don't care. Councilman Obelenus said he cares. Solicitor McAndrew stated once you guys have noticed a danger; it is now your responsibility to fix it. You can fix it, can you go after the owner for the fee; but if we terminate Main Street snow removal, there must be a back-up plan. There will be businesses that don't do it. President DeGonzague stated Joe Unis Jr. did send some citations to the magistrate for nonremovable of snow on sidewalk and is currently working with Solicitor McAndrew on the issue.

V.P. Scalzo stated the business is responsible for snow removal from the sidewalk to the curb, the sidewalk has to be clean, so in the summer time Jorge B's can't put a picnic table out. There is a decorative brick with parking signs, meters, and trees. He said to Sarah you are responsible to the curb where the grassy area is. The sidewalk is for walking not that brick portion. Councilman Obelenus said the brick portion is for walking, V.P. Scalzo said no, there are meters and trees there. V.P. Scalzo said many of things to look at before they decide what's needed in the future. It was mentioned that some businesses have their own contractor to remove snow. Tracey Lazier asked what council would do with the money that is now used for snow removal. Councilman Obelenus stated to go to the Police department. Ms. Lazier suggested to council to remove the meters. Ms. Lazier also said do you want free parking or clean streets. Ms. Lazier moved on to question the sewer liens, is it legal to look at someone's sewer/garbage bill, meaning a councilmember, then text someone and say why don't you pay your bills. Solicitor McAndrew said it was public record. Councilman Obelenus stated the text that is harassment, Solicitor McAndrew stated that was bad practice. Ms. Lazier stated; that's good to know and to have a good day. Ms. Lazier also stated her sewer bill was paid in full, but commented she had been harassed by President DeGonzague. Ms. Lazier questioned if anyone was going to make a motion to remove him as President; he is a "fucking dumbass", President DeGonzague thanked her.

Nick Cost asked John Kameen about his snow removal for the historical building, he said NEP does it. Councilman Obelenus said we are not measuring how much snow is front of your place, and we are not going to look at making money off it. Councilman Obelenus stated everyone is equal. Ms. Lazier stated that's good, you work for us.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** (President DeGonzague)

The next regularly scheduled Council meeting will be, Monday March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Councilman Obelenus made the motion to adjourn, seconded by V.P. Scalzo, all in favor, none opposed. President DeGonzague adjourned the meeting at 7:34 p.m.